

**Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
(Matthew 5:1-12)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

We have become so familiar with the beatitudes that there is a danger of our listening only to the mellifluous flow of language and of failing to attend to the extraordinary present and future reversal that they offer to all that suffer injustice, including the earth itself, and to those who choose non-violent ways of addressing the pain of the Earth community. With the escalation of violence across the globe and with powerful leaders opting for military rather than diplomatic solutions to global conflicts or threats, it is time to listen anew to these opening words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

The mountain setting establishes Jesus as wisdom teacher like Moses of old. God's favour rests on the poor, on the humble, on those who grieve for the pain of the world, on serious justice seekers, on those who know how to mercy, on the pure in heart or single-minded, on peacemakers, and on those who suffer in the cause of right. The repetition of "blessed are..." (a better translation of the Greek *makarioi* than "happy are...") provides multiple links with Israel's collection of sacred songs, the Psalms. For Israel's lyricists, God's favour or blessing is on those whose hope is in God, on those whose delight is in God's way, on those who take refuge in God, on the guileless in spirit, and on those whom God forgives. The content of the beatitudes echoes the voice of Israel's prophets, especially Isaiah 61. God's spirit is upon Jesus. He brings the good news of God's present and future favour or blessing to the destitute and to those who mourn. The distinguishing mark of God's favoured ones is right relationship.

God's favour or blessing comes in diverse forms: the *basileia* or empire of the heavens; comfort in the face of grief; the earth for a heritage; the joy of being mercied; face to face encounter with God; a great reward "in heaven". If heaven is only a place to be enjoyed in the after-life, it is little consolation for the desperately poor or for those who are persecuted or misrepresented to know that "the empire of the heavens is theirs" or that their "reward is great in heaven". Heaven is better understood as a way of talking about God or God's empire of justice and compassion in contrast with the heartless empire of Rome and its modern equivalents. Maybe the most urgent invitation in our present context is to mourn strategically the displacement of so many of earth's inhabitants who long for the blessing of God's kin-dom in the form of comfort and mercy and the opportunity to share the fruits of the Earth.

**BULLETIN FOR THE 4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**



**ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST**

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

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**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING  
MONDAY, 30th JANUARY 2017**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	No Sacrament of Reconciliation

**NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES**

<b>ST. ALIPIUS</b>	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	9.00 AM
<b>BUNINYONG</b>	SUN	10.30 AM

**5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**

<b>READINGS -</b>	First:	Isaiah 58:7-19
	Second:	1 Corinthians 2:1-5
	Gospel:	Matthew 5:13-16

**RECENT DEATH:** Darrell Hayes (Fr Andrew's uncle), Nancy Coughlan.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Helen Shillito, Riley Shillito, Mary Nolan.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Pat Molloy.

**COUNTING TEAMS:**

This Week: **Team 4:** C.Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.

Next Week: **Team 5:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes, C. Napoli.



**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1,782.50
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>245.00</u>
		\$ 2,327.50
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 1,351.00

**ADRIAN'S FAREWELL—THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone involved in Adrian's farewell—a wonderful celebration! To those assisting in the Masses—Joan & Eileen, Readers, Singers, Choir, Music, Ministers of the Eucharist, Procession of Gifts...

And for the farewell in the Hall—the Caring Group, Speakers, Presenters of Gifts, Photographer, and all Parishioners who contributed...

**COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET**

A reminder that Commemorative Books are available in the churches for your signature and comment. They will remain for the next week or two for you to pass on any comments to Adrian.

**CARING GROUP**

The next meeting of the Caring Group will be held on 3rd February in St Alipius Hall at 10.00 am. All welcome

**MEMORIAL MASS**

For the late Darrell Hayes will be celebrated at Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong on Tuesday, 31st January at 7.00 pm.

**STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Would the person using Env No 92 please contact Jim in the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

**PARISH APPOINTMENT**

Bishop Paul Bird has announced that Fr Marcello Colasante has been appointed Parish Priest for Ballarat North and Wendouree from 25th February, 2017.

**MUSIC AT THE BREWERY**

**Sunday, 29th January 2016 from 3.00 pm. In aid of local asylum seekers.**

Live, acoustic music in the pleasant environment of the old Buninyong Brewery (107 Yuille St, overlooking the lake). \$15.00 includes afternoon tea.

For more information: Merle Hathaway—0419 324 042 or merle.hathaway@bigpond.com

**MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT**

**Supporting refugee and asylum seeker students in local schools**

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students in Ballarat schools through the Mercy Connect project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in February 2017. Contact Paulene Barton—Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email [mercyconnect@gmail.com](mailto:mercyconnect@gmail.com) for information and an application form. Applications close on 2nd February 2017.

**FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**

**Venue: Mercy Gathering Room, Gent Street, Ballarat East. Dates: 16th March; 27th April; 18th May; 22nd June; 20th July.**

Sr Veronica Lawson and Fr Barry Ryan invite parishioners to sign up for five two-hour sessions on the meaning of faith commitment in the contemporary world. Simply contact Sr Veronica by email ([veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au](mailto:veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au)) or by phone (0408 392 297) before 20th February. Kindly provide contact details and indicate whether you wish to enrol in the afternoon sessions (1.00-3.00 pm) or the evening sessions (7.00-9.00 pm). Donation to cover costs is \$20. Note that this is a new course, not a repeat of either the 2015 or the 2016 sessions.

**RESOURCES FROM THE DIOCESE FOR THE PARISHES**

The Diocesan Resource Centre has a wide range of resources that can be borrowed free by groups or individuals in parishes. There are books, music and DVDs on many topics including Sacraments, Lent, the Gospel of Matthew, Pope Francis, social justice and resources for children. More about the Resource Centre on the Diocesan Website: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or contact 5337 7149.